GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
GROWTH RATE OF AGRICULTURE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of agriculture in less than one per cent at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the growth rate of agriculture during the last three years;

(d) the likely growth rate thereof during the current financial year;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the growth rate of agriculture sector; and

(f) the success achieved as a result of the steps taken during the last year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(d): According to the advance estimates of National Income released by the CentralStatistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of the sector consisting of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is (-)3.1 per cent in the year 2002-03. The estimated negative growth in the sector reflects the sharp decline in the production of major crops like foodgrains and oilseeds resulting from the severe drought in the year 2002.

The estimates of growth of the above sector in the last three years are as under:

Growth rate of the sector consisting of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

Year	Growth rate (%)
1999-2000	0.3
2000-2001	(-)0.4
2001-2002	5.7

(e): In order to facilitate in the achievement of higher growth in agriculture, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat andCoarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan.To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes, `Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/Flood Prone Rivers` and `WatershedDevelopment Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas`.Besides, the Regionally DifferentiatedStrategy adopted during the Ninth plan would be continued during the Tenth Plan. As a newinitiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India` has been launched in March, 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc.The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.

(f): Agricultural production is influenced by changes in weather conditions. However, the trend of growth has been positive over the years due to the sustained efforts made in increasing production. In 2001-02, a record foodgrains production of 212 Million Tonnes was achieved. This was reflected in the high growth rate of 5.7 per cent registered in agriculture including forestry and fishing during 2001-02.